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KEITH THIRION

CHAIR

PAULETTE MEYER

February 25, 2025

Senator Charles Grassley
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Richard Durbin
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

On behalf of Alliance for Justice (AFJ), a national association representing nearly 140 public interest organizations, I urge you and your Senate Judiciary Committee colleagues to oppose the nomination of Harmeet Dhillon to serve as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Established in 1957 by the Civil Rights Act, the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice serves as the federal government's strongest civil rights enforcement mechanism, tasked with safeguarding our nation's core civil rights and enforcing anti-discrimination laws. As assistant attorney general for civil rights, Dhillon would oversee this vital endeavour, and her work would profoundly shape the everyday life of millions of Americans — affecting access to voting, education, employment, and public housing accommodations.

Dhillon's ardent loyalism to President Trump demonstrates that her commitment is to executing his agenda, not serving as an independent check on power abuses by the wealthy and powerful against the rights of the people. A co-chair of "Women for Trump" and former legal adviser to Trump during his 2020 presidential campaign, Dhillon will not bring the necessary independence and impartiality required to lead a core pillar of the DOJ, an institution which must always be insulated from political influence or will.

Dhillon's bleak record of attacking civil rights makes her entirely ill-equipped to act as a custodian of our most cherished protections. Throughout her career, Dhillon has mercilessly worked to axe voting rights protections, one of the core constitutional rights she would be tasked with safeguarding at the DOJ.

Specifically, Dhillon's law firm, the Dhillon Law Group, has brought multiple cases challenging critical voting rights laws and representing MAGA Republicans in anti-democratic election-related disputes. A chilling example of this was Dhillon's representation of Trump in his efforts to remain on the 2024 ballot in states that sought to remove him from the ballot for violating the Fourteenth Amendment.

On top of her legal representation, Dhillon frequently personally amplified harmful conspiracy theories and falsehoods relating to election fraud ahead of the 2024 election. Taking to Twitter after the Colorado Republican Party requested that the U.S. Supreme Court rule on whether Trump could be withdrawn from the 2024 ballot, Dhillon wrote, “Democrats are conspiring to commit the biggest election interference fraud in world history.” Additionally, appearing on Fox News, Dhillon personally called for the DOJ to “step in” and force states to “clean rolls” to purge voters.

Elsewhere in her career, Dhillon has launched troubling attacks on civil and human rights. Dhillon has notoriously represented ultra-conservative clients and advocated for the advancement of anti-abortion and anti-transgender causes. As assistant attorney general for civil rights, Dhillon would have vast authority to reshape the legal landscape and make it more difficult for transgender people and other marginalized groups to seek redress for discrimination through our core civil rights frameworks — a deeply troubling prospect.

Dhillon’s problematic work extends to her legal attacks on public safety measures at the height of COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, Dhillon and her firm notoriously spearheaded several lawsuits, including one on behalf of a gun club employee, that challenged lifesaving stay-at-home and public safety measures.

Dhillon’s relentless acts to diminish our most fundamental rights, coupled with her dogged loyalty to Trump, ensure that she is categorically not fit to lead our nation’s premier anti-discrimination and civil rights enforcement agency. The leader of such a pre-eminently important division must meet an exceedingly high bar. Not only does Dhillon fall far short of this standard, her career and actions are antithetical to the division itself and threaten the freedoms, liberties, and rights of millions of Americans.

We wholeheartedly urge the Judiciary Committee to reject Harmeet Dhillon’s nomination to serve as assistant attorney general for civil rights. We stand ready to answer any questions you may have about our conclusions regarding this nominee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith Thirion".

Keith Thirion
Interim Co-President, Alliance for Justice